ECE Highlights

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE No. 19 September 1993

MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF UN/ECE WORK FOR SAFER TRANSPORTATION

Working Party meets for one-hundredth session

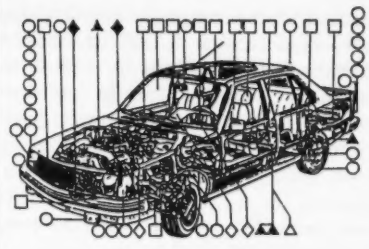
Virtually every part of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, bus or moped—from windows to tires, from safety-belts to bumpers, catalysts, lights and mirrors—has been regulated internationally by the Working Party on the Construction of Motor Vehicles which held its 100th session at Geneva, from 22 to 25 June 1993.

Its activities are based on the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts, which dates back to the year 1958 and covers 91 individual regulations providing for equal safety standards and environment protection requirements in all car construction countries parties to the Agreement.

Throughout the world, the number of motor vehicles is expanding at an enormous rate; approximately 500 million are in use and over 40 million units are added annually. Every year, some 100,000 people are killed on Europe's roads and several hundred thousand people are injured. Road traffic is one of the major causes of air pollution and noise nuisance, particularly in the cities. Road transport is also a major energy consumer. While the problems of controlling energy consumption may be solved by using principally economic instruments, this is not the case as regards road traffic safety and the protection of the environment. In these two areas, the European Governments, and most of the world's Governments, have resorted to regulations governing the construction and performance of vehicles such as vehicle lighting and light-signalling, use of safety-belts, etc. This harmonization is imperative for the safety of international traffic.

Today, 23 European countries are parties to this Agreement, which has led to the drafting of 91 vehicle-construction regulations recognized as binding by the various countries signatories to each of the individual regulations and even, unilaterally, by some non-European countries.

The results of the Working Party made it possible to build up a set of international regulations capable of providing a basis for the technical approval of all categories of vehicles in all European countries. The 100th session decided to adopt a number of amendments to existing regulations and to proceed with the implementation of regulations on the protection of vehicle occupants in the event of frontal and lateral collisions. In addition, the session agreed to publish a document adopted during the 100th session which describes the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles and its Role in the International Perspective.



PASSENGER CARS

INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION
UN/ECE
MOTOR VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION
REGULATIONS

ECOSOC endorses UN/ECE membership of six former Soviet Republics

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have become member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) by virtue of a decision adopted on 30 July 1993 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to amend the terms of reference of UN/ECE. The amendment entitles all members of the United Nations that had been constituent republics of the former USSR to be members of the UN/ECE. With the admission of Andorra by the General Assembly on 28 July 1993, this brings the number of UN/ECE members to 53.

For the use of information media; not an official record.

NEWS BRIEFS

Senior Economic Advisers discuss structural changes and employment problems in the UN/ECE region and factors of recovery in the countries in transition

The Senior Economic Advisers to UN/ECE Governments held their 29th session at Geneva from 7 to 11 June 1993. Topics selected as priorities for their exchange of views included the problems of structural changes, employment and unemployment in the UN/ECE region and factors of economic recovery in the economies in transition.

Participants observed that recent tendencies indicate unfavourable features in both the market and the transition economies of Europe: unprecedentedly high and rising unemployment rates, increasing shares of long-term unemployment, increasing costs of the social safety nets in coping with the ensuing social problems and bleak prospects for any substantial reduction in unemployment in the near future.

The factors of economic recovery in the transition countries were the subject of another debate. One important question was whether there was scope for a more relaxed fiscal stance in some of the countries in transition in order to speed up the recovery of their economies. However, it was pointed out that any departure from accepted fiscal discipline might prove to be counterproductive. Some improvement in the short term for these countries was urgently needed in order to keep the transition process politically and socially feasible. Economic recovery would be considerably enhanced if both the market economies and the transition economies could cooperate effectively on policy coordination and the opening of western markets.

FOCUS ON ENERGY

East-West business partners develop energy-efficient technology trade in Russia, financed by exports of oil and gas savings

Representatives of major international companies and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) met in Moscow from 18 to 22 May to discuss commercial methods of executing a recent Russian Government decision for improving energy efficiency and reducing environmental pollution. The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Victor Chernomyrdin, signed a Government Decision on 5 April 1993 establishing Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones in Moscow. The Decision provides for the repayment of western energy efficiency investments by the export of 50 per cent of the energy savings achieved in a Demonstration Zone within the framework of the UN/ECE Energy Efficiency 2000 Project. These special conditions will apply only to those designated Energy Efficiency Demonstraton Zones which are executed under the auspices of the UN/ECE. Other international organizations, companies and bilateral technical assistance programmes have been invited to participate in the Project.

A city-scale project, or an energy efficiency demonstration enterprise zone, is a town, district or limited area in which favourable conditions in every sphere are established to stimulate enterprise in market approaches to energy efficiency. Such urban or regional economic development zones have already been successfully established in western countries.

Promotion and development of a market-based gas industry in the economies in transition

A Centre for the Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition will soon be launched upon the initiative of the UN/ECE's Working Party on Gas. The Centre, which will be located at the Palais des Nations at Geneva, will establish permanent, reliable and accessible communications among gas industries, related government agencies, international financial and development institutions and the banking sector to assist gas industries in central and eastern Europe in their transition to a market orientation. Promotion and facilitation of foreign investment in the gas industries will be at the forefront of the Centre's activities. An Interim Advisory Committee has been set up and will meet in early October 1993 to discuss the progress achieved in the implementation of the project.

Symposium on Clean Coal Utilization Technology

The UN/ECE region is the world's largest consumer of coal. Coal accounts for 26 per cent of total energy consumption and, on average, for 40 per cent of electricity generation. Over the next thirty years, the role of coal in meeting regional requirements of energy is expected to decrease slightly but to maintain the present level of energy supply to power generation. The growing concern over damage to the environment and climate will undoubtedly accelerate a transition to more sustainable coal combustion throughout the world, in which technological changes will play a decisive role. These were the main topics of discussion during the Symposium on New Coal Utilization Technology which was held from 10 to 13 May at Helsinki.

JUST PUBLISHED

Management Development in East-West Joint Ventures

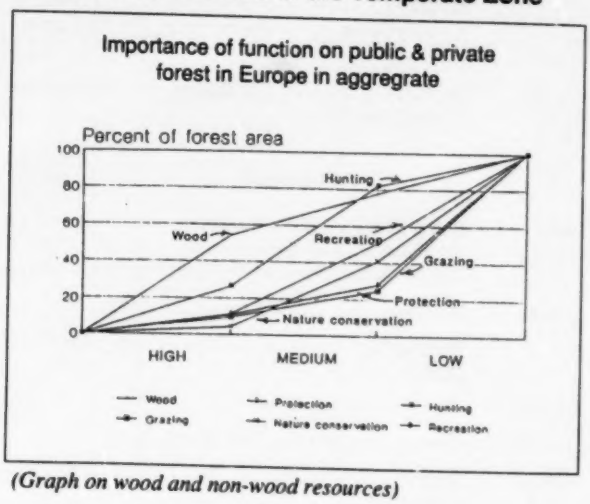
Improving the quality of management is a *sine qua non* for the success of economic reform in central and eastern Europe and is accordingly one of the principal policy objectives of governments of the region. However, these governments have neither the resources nor sufficient know-how to accomplish this objective effectively. Western governments have identified as a priority in their technical assistance to the region the need to train east European managers in market-oriented business techniques and have also recognized that their own resources are inadequate due to the scale of the task.

The UN/ECE and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) decided to cooperate in the preparation of a Guide on "Management Development in East-West Joint Ventures". It is intended primarily for companies establishing business ventures in central and eastern Europe and for management training specialists in both eastern and western countries. It will also be of interest to government officials responsible for promoting enterprise management development in their respective countries.

Management Development in East-West Joint Ventures: A Guide for Managers in the Economies in Transition (ECE/TRADE/185), Sales No. E.93.II.E.18, Price: US$ 30.00

READEX
FICHE

Forest Resources of the Temperate Zone



(Graph on wood and non-wood resources)

A new component of the "Global Forest Resource Assessment 1990" has just been published. The Global Assessment comprises a Temperate Zone Assessment, carried out jointly by the UN/ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and a Tropical Zone Assessment, compiled by FAO. "The Forest Resources of the Temperate Zones, Benefits and Functions of the Forest", Volume II, completes the part of the Assessment devoted to temperate zone forests. Volume I on "General Forest Resource Information" was published in October 1992. Detailed forest inventory information concerns the member countries of the UN/ECE region, Europe and North America, as well as three other developed temperate-zone countries, Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

The Assessment confirms that public attitudes towards the forest and forestry have continued to change over the past decade, with increasing concern being expressed in many countries for the protection of the environment, conservation of forests, bio-diversity and for meeting society's demands for non-wood goods and services. Readers of Volume II of the Assessment will find detailed information on the importance of forest functions by area, for products other than wood, as well as aspects of policy and planning activities relating to various forest functions.

The Forest Resources of the Temperate Zones: The UN/ECE/FAO 1993 Forest Resource Assessment, Vol. II, "Benefits and Functions of the Forest", ECE/TIM/62 (vol. II), Sales No. E.93.II.E.16, Price: US$ 48.00.

Large amounts of foreign direct investment set to flow into the oil and gas industries of the CIS

East-West Investment News

The secretariat of the UN/ECE estimates that as much as US$ 85 billion of foreign capital may flow into the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a result of a number of foreign investment projects in the region's primary sector concluded between 1990 and the first quarter of 1993. This large inflow of FDI will occur over several decades as the projects become operational and new mineral resources are found. This is one of the findings from a report on the principal foreign investment projects in the natural resource sector of the CIS during 1990-1993, published in *East-West Investment News* No. 1, previously, *East-West Investment and Joint Ventures News*, which is prepared by the secretariat of the UN/ECE. The report shows that the Russian Federation has been the most successful in attracting these projects—22 out of 39, followed by Kazakhstan, with 8. Most of the projects involve large multinational corporations from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The change in the title of this publication from *East-West Joint Ventures News* to *East-West Investment News* reflects a change in the mode of entry by foreign investors in eastern European markets. From the earlier practice of establishing joint ventures, previously the only mode of corporate entry into the former state-run economies, foreign investors are increasingly entering eastern European markets through the acquisition of corporate assets—privatization—or through the establishment of wholly-owned subsidiaries. This has been made possible under new legislation and promotional efforts on the part of eastern host countries themselves.

East-West Investment News No.1, January 1993, Annual subscription (4 issues) US$ 80.00. Single issue US$ 20.00. Available from the UN Sales Section, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

The Milk and Dairy Products Market, Vol. IV [ECE/AGRI/123 (Vol. IV)]. Sales No. E.93.II.E.20. Price: US$ 20.00.

The Grain Market, Vol. II [ECE/AGRI/123 (Vol. II)]. Sales No. E.93.II.E.24. Price: US$ 18.00.

Timber Bulletin, Monthly prices for forest products, Vol. XLVI, No. 1. ISSN 02549-4323.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

Directory of Chemical Producers and Products—Chemical Manufacturers' Associations and Related Organizations. Sales No. E.93.II.E.17. Price: US$ 30.00.

STATISTICS

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe 1993. Sales No. E/F/R.93.II.E.8. Price: US$ 60.00.

Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Vol. 9, No. 4, 1992. English only.

Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe, 1993. Sales No. E/F/R.93.II.E.12. Price: US$ 35.00.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on the Environmental Benefits of Energy Conservation

20-24 September 1993.

The Symposium is being organized within the framework of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, from 20-24 September in Moscow, Russian Federation. UN/ECE's Committee on Human Settlements and its Committee on

Energy will both cooperate in the Symposium. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss international and national energy efficiency prospects; city-scale economic development and energy efficiency projects, environmental benefits of energy efficiency improvements and environmental consequences of economic transition. A round-table discussion on East-West Trade and Cooperation and excursions to Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones will be organized at the conclusion of the Symposium. (See *FOCUS ON ENERGY.*)

Human Settlements Study Tour in the Netherlands

24-30 September 1993

At the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, a study tour will be organized in the Netherlands from 24 to 30 September 1993, following the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on Human Settlements. The tour will include visits to Eindhoven, Middelburg, The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The focal topics include: changes in urban renewal; tackling problems in the building stock; sustainable management of social housing; durable construction, urban renewal and location policy as important pillars in physical planning policy. The principal purpose of study visits is to complement the Committee's in-depth discussion on the human settlements situation and related current trends and policies.

UN/ECE CALENDAR

1993

Selected Events

All meetings listed are held in Geneva unless otherwise indicated.

September

6-8	Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)
13	Seminar on Financing East-West Trade and Privatization
13-15	Meeting of Experts on Coal Trade, Statistics and Transport (Vancouver, Canada, followed by study visits 16-17 September)
14-15	Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry
21-22	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
21-23	COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (followed by a Study Tour in the Netherlands, 26-30 September).
21-24	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures

October

4-8	Symposium on Developments and Prospects of Gas Markets and the Gas Industry in the UN/ECE Region in the Years 2000-2010 (Istanbul, Turkey)
6-8	Working Party on the Chemical Industry
10-12	Seminar on Safety of Young Drivers (Tel Aviv, Israel)
11-13	Working Party on Coal
11-15	TIMBER COMMITTEE (FAO, Rome, Italy)
12-14	Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project
12-15	Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
13-15	Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (Tel Aviv, Israel)
20-22	Working Party on Steel
20-29	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
21 (a.m.)	Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems - special session
25-29	Seminar on Reform of Real Property, Land Registration and Cadastre for Promoting Economic Development and for Improving Urban Management and Planning (Copenhagen, Denmark)

November

9-11	COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
9-12	Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
22-1 December	ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
23-26	Working Party on Water Problems
30-3 December	Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

WHERE TO ORDER

The publications listed with sales prices may be ordered from: **United Nations Bookshop, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland** and a number of bookstores in the ECE region. Send cheque or money order in US dollars made payable to: UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Those publications listed without a sales price may be obtained from the Information Officer, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

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ECE Highlights provides a round-up of news and information on major ECE events and publications and is available free of charge from the Information Officer.

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